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uncertainty when many a valuable hour has been lost. The books of Mr. Page and Mr. Stout contain the harmony of the gospels arranged chronologically, each according to the scheme of the respective authors. While one may well admire the industry and perseverance of these writers, it cannot be denied that much labor has gone to waste which might have been occupied in more useful studies. None of them has the correct point of view or is possessed of scientific principles which make books of this kind of real value.

Isaac and Jacob.

Isaac and Jacob: their Sins and Times. By George Rawlinson, M. A., New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. Pp. VIII., 186. Price \$1.00.

This book adds neither to Canon Rawlinson's reputation nor to the "Men of the Bible" series to which it belongs. It is a weak dilution of the biblical material with patches of information culled from popular writers like Geikie, Robinson, Thomson, etc., and dreary wastes of platitudinous description from the commonplace imagination of the writer. One would never know from this story that there were any difficulties in the book of Genesis needing explanation, or any thing more than a moderate degree of sin in the early career of Jacob and such as is quite excusable. The reader's time will be wasted in looking at this feeble imitation of the strong and simple narrative of Genesis.

A Popular Apologetic.

The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture. By the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M. P. Revised and enlarged from the Sunday School Times. Philadelphia: John D. Wattles. Pp. 358.

Mr. Gladstone's book has become well known to many among us. It has peculiar excellences and defects, but its excellences are by far the more numerous and striking. It is an endeavor to offer an argument for the Divine character of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, on the part of one who has been accustomed to weigh and estimate reasonings from the point of view of the non-specialist, the popular reasoner and persuader. Such an effort is bound to be interesting and when a mind like that of Mr. Gladstone is behind it, the findings cannot fail to command respect. A peculiar tinge of interest is added to the discussion by the introduction of illustrative material borrowed from the prehistoric antiquity of Greece, a field which this great statesman has found time extensively to cultivate. As to the results of the whole inquiry and argument, three remarks may be made, (1) it is gratifying to find that Mr. Gladstone holds that no essential breach has been made in the trustworthiness and authority of Scripture by the assaults of negative criticism, (2) still he recognizes and acknowledges practically and incidentally that the Bible is authenticated by the character of the religious element in it and not by its accuracy in historical or scientific detail, (3) the book reveals clearly the inability of any writer, however broad minded and clever he may be, to write satisfactorily about the Bible from a standpoint totally removed from the body of results which historical criticism of the Bible has established. Mr. Gladstone has essayed to do it; he has made some acute observations and offered some striking arguments; but he has fallen frequently into two extremes of *a priori* reasoning—an inheritance of his earlier days—and of generalization from insufficient and improbable data. In other words the discussion is well

worth reading not so much for positive results as because it contains many acute and valuable remarks upon the Bible and present discussions of it by a cultured Christian man—and that man, Mr. Gladstone. The publisher has issued it in very good taste; clear type, broad margins and an excellent frontispiece of Mr. Gladstone with an autograph letter, making it an attractive volume.

The Epistles to the Thessalonians.

The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. The Epistles to the Thessalonians: with Introduction, Notes and Map. By the Rev. George G. Findlay, B. A. New York: MacMillan and Co. Pp. 183. Price, 50 cts.

The latest issue of this valuable series shows no falling off in character or contents, unless it may be in the map which is not so artistic and clear as those in former volumes. Very full introductions are supplied by Prof. Findlay, discussing (1) the city of Thessalonica, (2) how the Gospel came to Thessalonica, (3) the Gospel of Paul at Thessalonica (already printed, by the way, as an article in the *Expositor*), (4) the occasion of the two Epistles, (5) their genuineness, (6) their style and character, (7) Analysis and digest (this latter a new and valuable feature). In an Appendix of eleven pages a detailed historical exposition is given of the great problem of these Epistles—the Man of Lawlessness (or Man of Sin). Prof. Findlay finds himself in general agreement with the views of Dorner, Olshausen, Riggenbach, Alford, Ellicott and Eadie upon the question. The commentary will add to its author's growing reputation as a biblical scholar and reflect credit on this excellent series of books.

The Epistle to the Galatians.

The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. The Epistle to the Galatians, with Introduction and Notes. By the Rev. E. H. Perowne, D. D. New York: MacMillan and Co. Pp. xxviii., 91.

A sound and useful commentary in brief compass is given by Dr. Perowne in this volume. It pursues the same course along the same lines as those which previous volumes of the Cambridge Bible have made familiar to the student. The Introduction is lucid and full, and an appendix contains some detailed discussions of special passages and a consideration of Paul's Arabian sojourn. The judgments expressed and interpretations given are largely those of Bishop Lightfoot in his ample and unrivalled Commentary, but they show independent study and thought, on the part of Dr. Perowne.